

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
Amendment of Media )  
Ownership Caps ) Docket No.: **MM DOCKET NO. 02-277**  
)

## COMMENTS

As an American consumer, I would like to comment about the proposal to basically eliminate media ownership caps. I am opposed to any allowance given to expand cross-ownership of our valuable resources – that being the broadcast media. I believe that there should be more regulation, not a 'free for all' to the highest bidder.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TelecomAct) should be repealed. The TelecomAct has not benefited the American consumer at all – only a very small number of large businesses have been the beneficiary of this act. Excuse me for being so blunt, but may I remind the FCC that **the airwaves belong to the American people** – let me repeat that, “The Airwaves Belong To The American People; the airwaves are not for FCC to sell for profit; the airwaves are not for private industry to buy. Our airwaves are a limited resource for the free use of the American people, regulated by the FCC, and used by private industry for the benefit of the general public.

In my opinion, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was, and is, a disaster. I pray that the FCC will recognize the havoc caused by the act, and will not go further down that non-regulatory road concerning our media. The TelecomAct has not lowered our cable bill rates as promised (they have increased at double the rate of inflation), it has not allowed for more diversity (one company owns 1,200 radio stations instead of only 8), and the 96 Telecom Act has had the negative effect of destroying radio broadcasting on a local level. For some reason, Clear Channel Communications has been allowed to become a legal monopoly, purchasing our limited resources – that being our radio broadcast stations. Clear Channel has not only purchased over 1,200 U.S. radio stations, but now expands their media monopoly to include owning ‘the’ ticket sales company, billboard companies, and television stations. How does any of this benefit the general public in the use of our airwaves by having one company own so many stations? How does this improve diversity in broadcasting? How does this benefit the public when several independent stations are purchased as a group, and then all but 2 of the people in their local news departments are fired, and then “local” news comes from a different station some 100 miles away? How will allowing Clear Channel to purchase more forms of mass media benefit the general public?

I urge this FCC and its chairman to realize that you have a job to regulate the American airwaves, as it is a limited resource. There would be chaos without media regulation. If you truly believe that there should be no media / broadcast regulations, then why are you forcing HDTV on us? Is this all about money and not about the American people? Why can’t we keep our old TV sets until we get tired of them? Why will it be against the law for me to buy an NTSC TV set after 2005 if I want to watch old movies on an old VCR? But if I want to control 50% of the radio audience in a

city, own the concert ticket company there, own the billboard company, own the cable TV company there and the local newspaper there – I could do that under your proposed lack of regulations?

Sounds like selective regulations to me – only when it benefits the few people with the deep pockets.

It is time that the Federal Communications Commission returns to its original 1934 intent – to regulate what flows over the limited airwaves. Allow for new technology, eliminate interference issues and make sure that new technology doesn't destroy current technology, and all is 'backward compatible' with existing equipment. The "HD Radio / IBOC" radio is not totally backwards compatible.

Please do not remove media ownership caps. Please repeal the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and replace these one-sided rules with common sense limitations that will benefit all Americans, not just a few.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinions.